

AN ¹⁶
E A S Y W A Y
O F
B R E E D I N G
CANARY BIRDS.

AND THE
BEST METHOD
O F
CHUSING, and KEEPING them,
BOTH FOR
BREEDING, and SONG.

Adorned with CUTS.

Inest sua Gratia PARVIS. Virg.

L O N D O N:

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The Several Sorts of CANARY BIRDS Described.

PORTICO.



Near the Western Coast of *Africa*, are 7 Little Islands, subject to the King of *Spain*, called the *Canary Islands*, and Inhabited by the *Spaniards*:

And all of them produce that Luscious Wine, called by them, *Sack*, but by Us, *Canary*, from the Name of the Place.

In these Islands, are Certain Little Singing Birds, called therefore *Canary Birds*, (they Breeding Wild *There*) But of late Years, great Numbers of these Birds have been Carried from thence, into *Germany*, and Bred *There*. — From Whence, It is *Now* even become a Trade, for Certain *Germans* Every Year, to Bring of these Birds Over, into *England*.

These Birds are of Several Colours, from their Different Shades of Colours, in their Coupling.

And of these Several Colours, the *Spangled Sort*, with Black, and Brown Spots, and Streaks on their Backs, and Wings, Intermixed with a Cast of a Beautiful Bright Yellow, as if drawn with a Pencil,

With No White at all about them, and with Black, or Dark Brown Feathers in their Tails, and a Spot on their Heads, called by Fanciers, A *Cap*,

Are Now the most Esteemed, according to the Present Reigning Fancy amongst Breeders, Quite All *White Tail'd Birds*, being Valued the Least.

And which Fine Spangled Sort, interspersed with a Bright Yellow, the *French* call *Jonquilles*,

From the *French* Word *Jonquille*, which is the Name of a very Beautiful Flower, most Finely Streaked with those Black, and Yellow Colours.

And therefore, Streak'd Birds inclining to those Colours, are called *Jonques*, or of the *French* Strain:

From a Breed, which a few Years ago was brought hither from *France*, but Since, much Improved in Colour, & Beauty, by *English* Breeders.

As to the Article of a *White Tail*, Or a *Cap* on the Head of a Bird, it is Nothing but mere Fancy amongst the Present Breeders, at *This Time* :

And for no other Reason, than because *Canary Birds* have so Generally *All White Tails*, and are without that Spot on their Heads, called *A Cap*.

That, [Except quite Dark Brown Birds, called the *Grey Canary Birds*, whose Tails are always of their own Colour] For *One* Bird that has a Blackish, or dark Brown Tail, or has any *Cap* on it's Head, so have *White Tails*, and No *Cap* at all.

Therefore, For the meer Uncommonness only of the Thing it is, that the *Black Tails*, and *Cap'd* Birds, are most Esteemed.—Whereas,

If *Canary Birds* had as Generally *Black Tails*, and *Caps* on their Heads, as they have *White Tails*, and are without *Caps*, Then, a *White Tail* Bird, and without any *Cap* at all, would be most Esteemed :

So that this is nothing but meer Fancy, because Birds with *White Tails*, & no *Caps*, are so Common :

The Colour of the Tail, Or *Cap*, or No *Cap* on the Head, Adding Nothing at all to the Goodness of the Bird, Either for Breeding, or Singing.

This Beautiful Fine Sort of Spangled Feather, the *French* first struck into, by Pairing Proper Coloured Cocks, with Hens, in Breeding. And
Therefore

Therefore such Spangled Birds are now generally Called by the Name of *French Canary Birds*,

Meaning thereby, that they are of the *French* Strain, notwithstanding their being Bred in *England*.

And when such Cocks are Paired with very Pale Coloured, or Whiteish Hens, they produce that Pale Greyish Coloured Sort, called *Mealy Birds*,

From the Mealy Kind of Colour, which seems to Cover all their Feathers, so that they have no other Colours perfect, being covered with that *Mealy* Cast.

Those Birds which the *Germans* mostly bring Over, are what are called *Mottled Canary Birds*,

From their being White Birds, with a Certain Shady Intermixture of something of a Grey.

Of these also, Some are *All White*, and those are are the Hens, Some all Yellow, which are Cocks, Some the Colour of Buff, & some of an Ash Colour.

Amongst these Whiteish *Mottled* Sort of Birds,

Some have Red Eyes, & the Cocks of this Sort, Sing as well as Others, but the Hens are good for Nothing at all, being always Dim Sighted, and cannot See to Feed their Young Ones, (if Ever they should have Any) and so Starve the Whole Nest.

The *Germans* bring Over also, a Few very Darkish Brown Birds, Called the *Grey Canary Birds*,

They are the Least Esteem'd of any, because of their mighty Plain Feather, being the Colour of a Common *Sparrow*, & therefore, are the Cheapest of all :

But yet are Generally as Good in their Nature, as Any, both for Singing, and Breeding.

Some *Canary Birds*, are Longer from Head, to Tail, are Taller, & have Blacker Legs, than Others,

Of These, The Best Sort, whither for Singing, or Breeding, are the *Tallest*, and of Near a Span Long, from the Bill, to the End of the Tail :

And If the Legs are of a Blackish Cast, 'tis a Mark of Strength in a Bird. Cocks or Hens

*How Certainly to Know, and Buy a Cock
Canary Bird, and not be Deceived, and
Put off with a Hen, instead of a Cock.*

*And also, Out of a 100 Cock Canary Birds,
Promiscuously in a Room All together, Present-
ly to Know which Single Bird in Particular,
is entirely the very BEST of them All.*

OF the *Mottled Birds*, which the *Ger-*
mans Bring over, the Cocks are Easily
Known at First Sight, from the Hens,

The Cocks being always of a Lively Yellowish
Colour, Whereas, The Hens are of a Dusty White.

Also, The Breast, Belly, and Head in the *Grey
Canary Birds*, are more Yellow in the *Cocks*, than
in the *Hens*, which are *All* of a Pale Greenish
Colour, without any thing of Yellow, at all.

But, The Spangled, & *Mealy Birds*, Differ Com-
monly, but Little in Colour, in *Cocks*, and *Hens*,

Except, that by a Nice Observation, the Co-
lours in the *Cocks*, Appear still something more
Brisk, and Lively in their Kind, than in the *Hens*.

So that the *Cocks* of these Colours, Can (to be
Certain) only be Known by their Singing,

For *Hen Canary Birds* Never Sing at all. — And

Therefore, Whenever you Buy a *Canary Bird*,

If you Buy the Bird out of a Great Many
together, as Out of Any Bird Seller's Store-Cage,

Let the Bird be Put into a Single Cage by him-
self, and *There* Hear him Sing, By which, You are
Sure not to be Deceiv'd with a *Hen*, instead of a *Cock*.

And to be SURE of a *Stout Singing Cock*, do Thus.

Go a little Before Roosting Time, and Stay a
While in the Room, Where all the Birds Hang :

And You'll Hear by Degrees, the Birds Leave off
Singing, to Go to Roost. Now, *Those Birds* which
Sing Last after all the Rest have done Singing,

Or else, You may go After Sun-Set, when 'tis Dark, and set up a Candle, or 2, in the Room where the Birds are :—Upon which, Some One, or Other of them, will Commonly fall a Singing:

And Never doubt, but *Those* are the *Best* Birds.

But, If after Setting up a Candle, or 2, No Bird Sings, then make a little Tinkling Noise with a Pewter Plate, between a Pair of Tongs,

And Ten to One, but Some One Bird, or Other, will Answer you with a Song. Besure Buy **THAT** Bird out of Hand, 'Tis a Choice Good One.

Now, The Time of the Year, to Chuse Birds in this Manner, is before *Candlemas*, when the Days are Short, For, When the Days are so Long, that the Birds are Tired out with Singing *All Day*,

Altho' you do Set up Candles, Yet they being Weary of Singing in the Day Time, will not so very Easily Fall a Singing, by Night :

But, If any One does *Then* fall a Singing by Candle Light, After having Sung a Whole Long Day Before, Never then doubt but that He is an *Extraordinary Good Bird*, And therefore,

Besure Buy him, Without any more Ado.

Buy Always both for Singing, or Breeding, the *Tallest, & Longest Bird* from his Head, to the End of his Tail, and with the *Longest Tail*, you Can Get.

And, altho' the very **LARGEST Cock**, and *Hen* you can Get, are always the *Best* Birds, for Breeding,

Yet, If you Buy a Bird for Singing only, a Smaller Sized Bird, may fully answer your End as well :

It being a Saying amongst the *Bird Fanciers*, (of which Experience must Shew the Truth) that

The *Less* a *Cock Canary Bird* is, the more Prone He is to Sing, According to that of the Poet *Claudian*,

Major in Friguo Regnabat Corpore, Virtus.

*How Certainly to Know, and Buy a Sound
Healthy Canary Bird, and not be Deceived,
and Put off with a Sick Unhealthy One.*

WHenever you Go Any where to Buy
a *Canary Bird*, altho' the Bird-Man
should Reach you down a *Sick Bird*,
Who, but just before, had his Head under his Wing,

Yet, When he Surprises the Bird by Reaching
him Down to you, and Holds the Cage in his
Hand Close to you, to shew you the Bird,

'Tis Natural for the Bird *Then At That Time*,
out of a Sudden Surprise, to Rouse himself, to
Stand Strait Up, and to Shew himself Pert :

And consequently, to Appear as if Perfectly
Well in Health, during the Time of his being
thus Surprised, while you stand too near his Cage.

Also, By their Pointing too Near the Bird, Pre-
tending to shew you the Beauty of him, the Bird will
of a Sudden Stand Strait, Draw up his Feathers, & so
Appear as if Well, & by that Means Deceive you.

So that by this Craft it is, of the Person who
would Sell a *Sick Bird*, that Buyers are Deceived.

For, This is the usual Deceitful, and Crafty Way
of Putting off a *Sick*, or Unhealthy Bird, by Bird-
Men, and a *Cunning Sly* Way it is.—Therefore,

Look Well at the Bird, *Before* he is Reached
Down, or any Ways Stirred. And if he should
be Reached Down, before you are Aware,

Let him be set Down at a Distance off from you,
and Let him Stand *There* some Little Time, And
There Observe how he Sits, and Behaves himself.

If he Stands Up Bold, and Strait, without
Loosening, or Ruffling his Feathers, or Crouching
down, or Hanging his Wings, Appearing, as it were
All of a Heap, and *Rough* in his Feathers,

But that his Feathers Lie all Sleek, Smooth, and
CLOSE to his Body, with his Eyes Full, Chearful,

But, If you see him Clap his Head under his Wing, Or if his Feathers sit so Rough, and Loose about him as to make him Bulky, and, as it were, *All of a Heap*, have Nothing at all to do with him, He is not Sound.—But, As Sure a Way as Any,

To Know When a *Canary Bird* is in Health, is to Observe his Dung, Which you must do, Thus :

Take him out of the Store Cage, and Put him by himself into a Single Cage, that has a *Clean* Draw Board, without any Dung at all on it :

And *There* See How He Sits, and Behaves himself on his Pearch, and above all, You will *There* See his Dung *Apart* by itself, which you could not do, when he was in the Cage, among Other Birds.

Therefore, When he Dungs, View it well, And

If the Bird is in perfect Health, his Dung will Lie Round, and Hard, with a White on the Outside of it, Dark within, and Quickly grows Dry.

Whereas, A Thin, Loose, Slimy, and Whiteish Watery Dung, without any Thickening, or Black in it, are sure Marks of a *Sick, Unhealthy Bird*.

Also, Take Notice of the Manner of his Dinging,

For, If he Bolts, and Jerks up his Tail, presently after he has Dung'd, it is a Sign He is not in Health, altho' He may Sing for the Present.

Chuse then a Bird that Stands Bold, and Strait Upright upon his Pearch, not Crouching, or Hanging his Feathers, or Wings, But that looks Sprightly, and full of Life, and Vigour,

Not subject to be Frighted, but that is Familiar,

And will Look Freely at *You*, and will let *You* Look at him, without Fluttering, or Beating himself.

Such a Bird is a Good, Sound, Healthy, and Valuable Bird, And you may Safely Buy him.

IF these Foregoing Rules are but Observed, No One need ever be Deceived in a *Canary Bird*, by even the *Cunningest* Bird Man, of them *All*.

*How to Keep, and Order a Single Cock
Canary Bird in a Cage, for Singing Only.*

*And How (Safely) to Handle a Canary Bird,
For, There is but ONE Only Right Way.*

WHEN you have Got a *Cock Canary* Bird to your Liking, As Good a Cage to Keep him in, as Any, is a Common 18d. Tower Cage, to be Had at any Cage-Maker's.

Put him in, and Strew some Gravel on the Draw Board, Give him Rape, and *Canary* Seeds, Half One, Half the Other, is the Common Mixture, With Water, and Hang him Up : And, He will Sing all the Year, except when in the Moul.

Don't Hang him in any Private, Lonesome Room, Alone by himself, For, He is a Bird that Loves Company, not only of his Own Kind, but even of Men.

And therefore, Will Sing much *More*, in any Publick Shop, or Frequented Room, where Company constantly Comes, and makes a Noise, than if Moaped up in a Room Alone, by himself.

And the *More* you Make a Noise, or Talk to him, the *More* he will Sing, Striving, as it were, to Outdo you, by making a Greater Noise.

But, You must not Hang him in any *Cold* Place, Nor in any *Thorough Air*, He being a Tenderish Bird (tho' with Care, will Live Many Years)

That is Nourished by Warmth, Whereas, *Cold* will Cause his Belly to Swell, which will Kill him.

And 2 Cocks in a Room, at a Distance from Each Other, will Sing much *More*, than *One* Alone by himself :—Because, By Trying to Out-Sing One Another, they Provoke Each Other to Sing the *More*.

A *Canary Bird* should not be kept in the Dark, Because, When you bring their Cage to the Light, to Clean it, They will be Apt to Flutter, and Beat themselves against the Cage, as all Birds naturally do, brought out of any Dark Place, into the Light.

Refuse

Before Clean his Cage, and give him Fresh Gravel, Meat, and Water, at least Twice a Week,

For Nothing hinders his Thriving, and causes Diseases *More*, than his not being kept Clean.

Because, Nothing Offends him so much, as the *Stink*, *Froustyness*, and Strong Smell of his own Dung, or Stale Water, and Meat.—And also,

If his Cage is not often Cleaned, He will be Apt to Clog his Tail, and Feet, which will Rot his Toes, Breed the Cramp, and Spoil Your Bird,

And therefore, Never let your Bird go with his Feet Clogged up with Gravel, and Dirt.

But, If at any Time, You perceive his Feet, or Tail to be Dirty, and Clogg'd, You must Clean them, and Set the Bird at Liberty, Thus,

Take the Bird Gently, but yet a little Boldly, in your Hand, For, by a *Fear* of Taking Hold of him, least you should hurt him, You will be so *Long* in Catching him, that he will Flutter, and Beat himself too Long about the Cage, before you can well Take Hold of him.

Having got him in your Hand, don't Squeese his Body, but the *Only Right Way* to Hold him in your Hand, is with your Thumb Gently Cross his Neck,

By which Means, thus hindering his Neck to Stir, you may hold his Body the Gentler, & yet the Surer.

For, As Long as you have your Thumb but Over his Neck, and have him but Secure *There*, He cannot by any Means, Get Away from you.

Having the Bird thus Gently Secure in your Hand, You must not Pull off the Clotted Substance *Dry*, least you Tear the Tender Skin of his Toes, or Pull the Feathers out of his Tail,

But, You must Moisten by Degrees, the Hard Clotted Substance with a Little Spittle, between your Finger, & Thumb, to Soften it First, and then Gently by Degrees, to Break it, & so Take it off.

For, Nothing hinders his Thriving *More*, than Dirt, and Nastyness, and a Dirty Clog'd Tail, and Feet, which Breeds the Cramp, and makes a Bird not to Thrive, nor Delight in himself.

And always Observe, that a Clog'd Footed Bird, is Seldome perfectly Well, nor a Sickly Bird, is Seldome without Clog'd Feet, and a Nasty Tail,

So that *Dirt*, and *Sickness*, Go so Generally both together in a Bird, That, A *Sickly Bird* is Seldom Clean, and a *Dirty Bird* is as Seldom *Well*.

Therefore, Besure keep his Draw Board, and Perches CLEAN, that he may not Clog himself.

Don't let him be without Gravel, for all *Canary Birds* love to Peck, and Scratch amongst it for Little Gritty Stones, which helps them to Grind, and Digest their Meat, & Scoures, and Cleanses their Bodies, and therefore is Wholesome for them.

Thus, Give your Bird but fresh *Gravel*, *Seed*, & *Water*, Twice a Week, & you have no more Trouble with him, being of the *Hard Bill'd* Kind of Birds.

Whereas, *Soft Beak'd* Birds, such as all the Kinds of Larks, Robins, Nightingales, &c. must have Soft Meat, and *That* Fresh, and Fresh Every Day, or else it will be Sour, and Stale, & so Kill the Birds.

Besides, The Constant Trouble in making it, Renders them so Troublesome to their Keeper,

To say nothing of the Frequent Fresh Turfs for Sky-Larks, which they Absolutely Require,

That in the Whole, They fall far Short of Recompenfing their Keeper's Attendance, and Trouble.

Whereas, Give but Gravel, Seed, and Water to a *Canary Bird*, and you have *Done with him*.

And, He will Sing *All the Year*, except about *September*, when in the Molt, Whereas, Other Birds Sing only at Certain Seasons, which falls Short of Recompenfing their Constant Trouble, in Keeping.

The Best thing for Water, and their Meat, is Any Thing of Glass, which you must keep Very *Clean*, by often Rincing, and Scowering it.

Leaden Pots are Apt to Fur, and so Corrupt the Water, and all Tin Pots are Apt to Fur, & Rust which is Offensive to him : And, Any Thing of Pewter, is Wholesomer, and Cleanlier, than Lead.

Now, and then, Give him a little Maw Seed, to Cherish, Comfort, and Please him, for *Canary Birds* Love it far better, than Any Other Seed.

Maw Seed is a very Little Small Purple Coloured Seed, no Bigger than Mustard Seed,

You may Buy a Pennyworth of it, at any Time, Where you Buy your Other Seeds.

It is generally Sold from 14, or 15d. a Pound, to 20d. or thereabouts, as the Seed Market Goes.

Put sometimes a Bit of Loaf Sugar, as also a little Bit of Chalk, between the Wires of the Cage,

'Tis Good, and Wholsome for him to Peck at, and frequently to Whet, and Rub his Bill against.

And in Warmish Weather, Give him a Little Seedy *Chick Weed*, or *Groundsil*, Or the Fine Leaf of a Young *Radish*, Or a Fine Leaf of the Heart of a Cabbage, Goss, or *Silesia Lettice*, Or *Endive*,

Or Ripe *Seedy Plantan*, which towards *July*, & *August*, grows in almost Every Meadow, & Field.

Any of these Greens, are mighty Wholsome for him, and will keep him in Health, and all *Canary Birds* Love such Greens extremely Well.

In Hot Weather, Never Fail (Let any one Put it in your Head of his Catching Cold, never so much) to put him a little Dish of Water in his Cage, for him to Wash, and Refresh himself in.

It Cannot do him any Harm, Whenever He is inclined to Wash Himself in it, in *Warm Weather*.

It is the very Best Thing you can do, to Refresh, Cool, and Keep him in Health :—For,

You may be Assured, that Whenever he Sees Water, & has a Mind to Wash, it will Never do him Harm.

Therefore, Whoever Tells you to the Contrary, (out of a Notion of his Catching Cold) Don't Fear it,

For, No Bird would ever Wash himself, if it did not Agree with him, and do him Good, And there is No Bird of a *Hotter* Nature, than a *Canary Bird*.

He will Soon by Picking, and Drawing his Feathers, to Clean them, Dry himself again, and will do much Better, than if he had not Washed at all.

And Whilst he Washes himself, and Afterwards, To Dry him, Set his Cage, if you Can, *in the Sun*, & He will Thrive as much by *This*, as by his Food.

But Never let a *Hot Sun* Lie Long upon him.

If any of your Bird's Tail Feathers are Ragged, or Stumpy, so as to have an Ugly Tail, a very Long Handsome Tail, being the Beauty of a *Canary Bird*,

You must Pull them Gently out, One by One, and they will Soon Come again Beautiful.

Whereas, If you Cut the Raggedness off with a Pair of Scizars, they'll Remain SO, till He Molts.

If his Claws grow Inconveniently too Long, Clip the Ends of them off with a Pair of Scizars, to give him better Liberty, to Hop About.

AND any of *That Change* of Food, and Greens, (for they Love a Diversity of Diet) Ordered Hereafter for Birds that are Breeding, Such as a Bit of *Hard Egg*, White, and Yolk together,

When you have it Otherwise in your *Salad*, without Getting it on Purpose, *Naples Bisket*, *Chickweed*, or *Groundfil*, When you Walk Out in the Fields,

May be Given also to a *Single Cock* in a Cage: It will Hearten him to Sing the Better

Which Sort of Canary Birds, are the Best to Breed With.

THE Fine *Spangled Sort* Abovementioned, commonly called, *French Canary Birds*, and the *Mealy Ones*, are the BEST to Breed with, for *Those*, who are very Curious.

Because, A *Spangled Cock*, with a *Mealy Hen*, will Produce a more *Regular Spangled Feather*, than if Cock, and Hen were *Both Spangled*. For *Then*, They would Breed too *High* upon the *Yellow*.

And Pair such a *Spangled Cock*, with a *Mealy Hen*, in a Cage by Themselves, as Hereafter in Page 29. Rather than a *Mealy Cock*, with a *Spangled Hen*,

Because, The Young Ones *Take* mostly after the *Cock Bird* in their Feathers, Rather than the *Hen*.

But, *Those* who have Only *Grey Birds*, They will Breed Full as Well, as *Any*, for the *Breeding Part*,

For *Those*, who Care not *What Coloured Birds* they Breed, so they *Have* but *Young Ones*.

They being the *Best of Nurses*, But, then they must Expect None but *All Grey Young Ones*.

And of which, The *All Grey*, and *Mealy Sort*, very Rarely Fail of having *Large, & Plentyfull Broods*.

Because *Mealy*, and *Grey Birds*, Make Kind Nests, are Admirable Good Layers, Close Sitters, Careful Feeders, & consequently in the Whole, the *Best Nurses*.

The *White Birds* are Quite the *Worst*, to Breed with, of *Any*, they being very Rarely *Good Nurses*.

And therefore, Let the Birds you Breed with, be *English Bred Birds*, and not from the *Germans*, Their Birds Agreeing but *Indifferently* with Our Climate, to Breed in :—And this is the Reason, That

Those who Breed with *German Mottle*, or *White Birds*, have Commonly so very Little Success.

And *This* it is, that Disheartens so Many Young Breeders, who begin with *German Birds*, from Trying to Breed any More : Whereas, If they had but had *English Bred Birds*, their *Plentyful Broods*, would

What Sort of a Place for Breeding Canary Birds, will Make them to have a Great Many More Young Ones, than the Common Breeding Places have.——And, How, Easily to Fit such a Pretty Place Up.

IF you Breed with only One Single Pair of Birds, in a Cage, as Good A Cage as Any, is One of the Common Pretty Breeding Cages, of near 2 Foot Square, with Breeding Boxes in it, and may be Had, At all Cage Maker's, for about 8, or 9s.

And if Made but Neatly, is so very Pretty a Cage, as to be an Ornament to any Room.

Into which Cage, Put *One Cock*, and *One Hen*:

For those who out of Covetousness, Put *Two Hens*, to *One Cock*, even tho' the Cage was Larger, find by Experience, that it Comes to Nothing.

But, If you have *Several* Pairs of Birds, Then, The *LEAST* Trouble by Far, is to Breed *Flying*.

Because, *ONE Feeding*, and *Serving*, Serves *ALL*.

And Then, Set Apart some Little *Warm Room*, or Large Closet, Facing, if possible you Can, the *Morning Sun*, with a Net before the Window, That

If by Accident, any Glass should be Broke, the Birds may not Get Out:——And also, That

The Window may be Opened, to give them Air in *Hot Weather*, without their Getting Away.

Fix up but only a *Very FEW* Peaches, that they may have a Larger Flight, to Exercise their Bodies, and Wings, which will keep them in Health.

And Place the Peaches as *SO*, not to Dung upon One Another, but Directly down upon the Gravel.

This being Done, Set a Little Table in the Room to Put Water, Meat, and Greens on: And on the Table; and Floor, You must always Strew some Gravel.

Those who have the Conveniency of a Little Closet in Any Room Below Stairs, where they are mostly in, have much more Pleasure

And far Less Trouble, than Those, who keep their Birds Up *Pokeing in a Garret*, Whither they must Harrafs, & Horse Up & Down to their Birds, Whenever they Want to See, and Hear them.

And so, Have no Manner of Pleasure in Seeing them all Day Long, which makes it scarce Worth having them, it making a Perfect *Toil of a Pleasure*.

For *Thus*, You will Always have your Birds Below Stairs, at Hand, And, You will be at no Other Trouble, than giving them their Meat,

And by their being thus *At Hand*, They will not be in such Danger of being Neglected, and of not being kept Sweet, and Clean, from any *Frousty, Nasty Smell*, as they would be, if kept Hobbling Up, *Pokeing in some Nasty, Frousty Garret*.

And, 'Tis *This* being so Far from them, that is the Occasion of most Breeding Places being kept so very *Nasty* as they are, so that they *Stink* almost like a Pidgeon House, or Rabbet Hutches.

Whereas, If they were but *Nearer At Hand*, and not Up *Poking in a Garret*, they would very Probably be much *Oftener Cleaned*, and your Young Ones Would Thrive as Well again, and Consequently,

You would Rear a Great Many *More Young Ones*, than the Common *Frousty Breeding Places* do.

For, Such a *Nasty Room* infects the very Air of the Place, which is as Prejudicial to their Young Bodies, as an Infected Air is to a Human Body.

After this, You must to 3, or 4 Pairs of Birds, Hang up 6, or 7 Breeding Boxes, — Because,

A *Hen* will Want to go to Nest, before her Young Ones have Left the Old Nest You may have such Breeding Nest Boxes, At *All* Cage-maker's Shops.

Having Put up your Breeding Boxes, Next, Get a Quarter of a Pound of Elk's Hair,

Which (it being very Light) will Last Several Pairs of *Canary Birds*, a Long While.

'Tis the Proper Thing for them, and in *Germany*, all their Birds make their Nests of it.

An *Elk* is a Creature in *Germany*, Like to, but Larger than Our Deer, With whose Hair, Sadler's Stuff their Saddles, because it will not Clod, & therefore, you may have it at most Sadler's, — But,

You'll be Sure not to Fail of it, amongst the Great Sadler's, on the *Paved Stones*, in *West-Smithfield* in *London*. 'Tis about 3s. a Pound.

Before have *Fresh Elk's Hair*, that has not been Stuff'd in any Saddles, which is Stale, and Musty.

Or, If you have No Elk's Hair, Get at Any Sadler's, 2, or 3 Pennyworth of *Doe's Hair*,

Or of Some Plaisterer, a little Clean *Neats Hair*, such as they Mix Along with their Mortar.

But, You must Wash well the *Doe's*, and *Neat's Hair* (the *Elk's Hair* needs no Washing) to Wash Clean Out the Lime, that was Used to get those Hairs out of the Hide, and which, without it is Washed Clean out, will Prejudice your Birds.

Then, Dry very *Well* these Hairs, — And

If you Mix a Little *Elk's Hair*, Clean *Doe's*, and *Neat's Hair All Together*, and Hang Some of that Mixture Up in a Corner of the Room, in a Little Net (like a Cabbage Net, but a great Deal less, and will Cost about *Two Pence*, at any Net Shop)

You will be Surprised to See, How the Little Birds will Pick it Out, Hair, by Hair, and what *Charming Pretty Nests*, they will Make of it.

Before keep your Place *Neat*, and *Clean*, Nothing Offending the Birds more, than their Own Dung.

And indeed, 'Tis very Unpleasant, to See a Great Many Breeding Places about Town, to be in such a *very Nasty Condition*, as they are, When a little Pains would keep them Clean, & Wholsome, & then they would not Loose so Many Young Ones, as they do.

Besides, *Cleanyness*, is Half the Beauty of the Place.

At One's first Coming into such Common Breeding Rooms, they Smell so very *Strong*, & *Frousty*, that they *Stink* almost as Bad, as a *Pidgeon House* :

The Dung Lies *Stinking*, Near a Quarter of an Inch Thick on the Bins, and Breeding Boxes,

Which is as Little Pleasant to the Birds themselves, as it is to the Person, Who Comes to See them.

And indeed, This *Nasty*, *Frousty* Smell, does so Affect the Place, that Numbers of Young *Canary Birds* Die thereby, & the Owners do not Dream of it.

Keep therefore your Place *Clean*, and *Sweet*, and You'll Breed as Many Young Ones again,—For,

They are Neat, Cleanly Little Birds, and Love a Sweet Air, and a Clean, and Sweet Abode.

If Then, The Places Where *Canary Birds* are Bred, were but kept *Sweeter*, & *Cleanlier*, than they are,

And not let be so *Very Nasty*, and *Smell so Strong*, & *Frousty*, as they do, and consequently to Contain a *Sweeter*, and *Wholsomer* Air, Nothing near so Many Young *Canary Birds* would Die, as do.

And this *Frousty* Air, Breeders little think to be the Cause of so Many of their Young Birds Dying.

The Best Way to Give Birds *Water*, that Breed *Flying*, is a Quart Bottle, Or a *Florence* Wine Flask Bottle, Turned with the Mouth Downwards, into a Flat Round Marmalade Pot, of about an Inch, and Half Deep, and the Bottle Supported by a Little Frame, that the Water may Fall Down Proportionably, as they Drink it Away.

And to have a Cover to the Marmalade Pot, with One Hole in the Middle, to Take just hold of the Mouth of the Bottle, to Fix it Strait Upright, and Little Holes Round, for them to Drink At.

And, You must Put their Seed in a Trough, with also their Other Food, upon the Table. You may Buy a Pretty Little Bin for Seed, at Any Cage Maker's Shop.

How to Order the Canary Birds Themselves, for Breeding.

HAVING thus Got your Breeding Place in Readyness, and Birds for *Breeding*, to your Liking, Turn your Birds in, Cocks, and Hens, They will Match, and Pair themselves, about the Middle of *February*, if the Spring is Mild.

Or Later, If the Weather is any thing Severe.

Three, or 4 Pairs of Birds, are Enough in a Closet, A Room may have More : But always Rather Understock, than (out of Covetousness) Overstock it.

A Moderate Closet, with only *Three*, or *Four* Pairs of Birds, will Succeed much Better, than if you Put *More* Couples into it, They being a Bird that Loves Liberty, and not to be Crowded.

After your Birds have been some Few Days Thus Together, They will Begin, First to Pull About, and Play with the Stuff you Put in the Little Net Abovementioned, for them to Make their Nests with.

And, After they have Diverted themselves a Little with it, being much Pleased to have such Agreeable Household Goods, & Furniture Given them,

They will *Then* Go about their Nest :

In the Building of Which, Both Cock, and Hen Work Pretty Near, Equally Alike. — And,

You will be Surprised to See, what a Charming Neat, Pretty *Little* Nest they will Make,

So Firmly Built all Round, and so Curiously Interwoven, and Quilted Soft, and Warm within Side,

For their Eggs to Lie Safe, and their Young Ones to Lie Soft, Easy, and Warm in, that it is Beyond *All* the Art of Man, to do the Like.

And When a Hen is very *Near* upon Laying, and that *Time Presses Her*, the Cock, & Hen will Work so Hard, that they'll Make a Nest, in a Day's Time.

But When this Necessity of Laying, does not Urge them, They will then Work, as they Please.

And

And, During all this Time, Untill the Hens Lay, and to make them the Heartier, and Stronger for Laying, Give your Birds Good Nourishing Food,

Such as A Little *Naples Bisket*, *Hard Egg*, White, and Yolk together, the Crum of Good White Wheaten Nourishing Bread, and some *Maw Seed*.

Thus, You may Safely Give them *Hard Egg*, to Strengthen, and Hearten them, 'Till They Hatch.

But, You must not give so Plentitully of Egg to them, *After* their Young Ones are Hatcht:

Because, They will Cram their Young Ones too much with it, & *Egg* is not so Good for the Young Ones, as Hereafter will be Shewed, in Page. 38.

Now, To Serve your Birds with Egg, and Bread, without the Daily Trouble of Grating of Either, Do Thus,

When a Hard Egg comes Easily in your Way, (As When You have a Salad, with Hard Eggs)

Slit a Hard *Hen Egg*, Long Ways into Two Halves, (for *Duck Eggs* are too Strong, and Rank, and will Prejudice your Birds)—Then, Drive a Long Slender *Brad Nail*, of an Inch Long, thro' a little Piece of Board, to Stand Strait Up, like a Spike,

Then, Take One of the Halves of the Egg, and Stick it Fast on the Spike, (that the Birds may not Pull it about, But Eat off from it, as it Stands *There* Firm) with the Flat Half of the Yolk Downwards Close to the Board,—Or,



You had Better Put *Two* Spikes, an Inch Distance from Each Other, to Keep the Half of the Egg the Firmer on, that they may not get it Easily off, and Pull it about.

Have also Another such a Little Peece of Flat Board, with *Two* Spikes likewise in it, & Stick thereon a Peece of the Crum of Bread of a Day Old Only.

And Sometimes, for Change, Stick on a Little Half Penny *Naples Bisket*, which they mightly Love.



You may have Half a Pound for 5*d.* at any Confectioners; or Pastry Cooks, to Keep by you :

And which will Last you a good While, for they cannot be too Dry. Nor too Hard for them.

And *Naples Bisket* having Eggs, Milk, and Sugar, in its Composition, Heartens them very Much.

You will find that the Birds will Pick, and Pick at the Egg, Bread, and Bisket, 'till they have Pick'd Every Bit of them *All Up*, for they will Leave None.

And, Half an Egg Given them thus, will not Sour so Soon in a Lump in Hot Weather, as Egg Grated Small in a Morning, will Sour by Noon.

And also, When Grated Bread, and Egg are Given to them Mixt together, the Soft, Moist Egg, makes even the Grated Bread also to *Sour*, Much *Sooner*, than a Peece of Bread will, of itself.

And thus You may Give Egg, and Bread to the Birds you design to Breed with, 'till the Time they have Young Ones, to Hearten and Strengthen them the Better for Laying, and Sitting,—But,

When the Young Ones are Hatcht, to Give them *Constantly* Egg is too *Hot* a Food for them :

Now, and Then, it may be Given them for a Little Change, but not **CONSTANTLY**.

You must also Against the Hens Lay, as well as Whilst they are Laying, Give them some Whole Oatmeal Grots, *Chickweed*, and *Groundsil*,

All Which They Love extremely well, and are not only Good to Nourish them, but are extraordinary Good to give a *Slippery*ness to the Hens, to Make them Lay much *Easier*.

How to Make Young Canary Birds, to be of Any Particular Fine Spangled, Or, of Any Other Colours, that You have a Mind to.

IF you would have Young Ones, from Any One Particular Cock, and Hen, You must Put such a Pair in a Cage by Themselves, 12, or 14 Days.

The First Day, or 2, the Hen being *Sby*, they may perhaps seem not to Agree, but Never Mind That, They'll soon *Make it Up*, and be *Better Acquainted*,
Amantium Iræ, Amoris Redintegratio est.

Which you'l Know, by their Feeding One Another.

Which, When you see they Often do, You may Turn them into your Breeding Place, amongst the Rest,

And they will (*Dove like*) Keep Constantly to Each Other, tho' amongst 7, or 8 Pairs of Other Birds.

The Generallity of Breeders, Pair thus in Cages by themselves, *All the Couples* they Breed with,

Before they Turn them into the Breeding Place,

But, If any Person does not care to be at that Trouble, they will *Match* Themselves very well.

And, What Sort soever you Breed with, besure Chuse the *Largest*, and *Longest* Feather'd Birds of the Sort, you can Get, and not what the *Fanciers* call Small *Short Feather'd Crumplings*, and *Scantlings*.

Also, If your Cock, or Hen is but *Small*, Then, Match your Small One, with a Larger.

And Observe, that 'tis Better the Hen be the Larger of the Two, to Cover Well her Eggs,

So that, A Small Cock, with a Large Hen, will Breed Better, than a Large Cock, with a Small Hen.¹

A Hen that has Already Bred, is much Better to Breed with, than a Young Hen, of a Year Old.

Because, Such Old Hens will Sit Closer, and Surer, and Feed her Young much Better (which is very Valuable) than Young Giddy Hens, But, a Cock of a Year Old, is as Good for Breeding, as Any.

How to Order Canary Birds Whilst They Lay, and Sit: And How, with Safety, to Handle, and Remove an Egg, — For, There is but ONE Only Right Way, to do it.



WHEN the Nest is Built, about which, both *Cock*, and *Hen* Equally Work, The *Hen* will Lay an Egg Every Day, (tho' some *Hens* will Miss a Day between) 'till she has Laid, Seldom under 4, & Rarely above 5.

Hen Canary Birds Always Lay Betimes in the Morning, So that, A *Hen* must have Laid her Egg by 7 of the Clock in the Morning, or 8 at Latest.

If She Stays Longer, it is because *She is Sick*, and Cannot Easily Lay, Which You will soon know by her *Uneasyness*, and *Wriggling* about her Nest.

When this Happens, You must Help her, Thus :

Take the *Sick Hen* Gently in your Hand, and with the Point of a Large Nail, Put 3, or 4 Drops of Fine Eating Salad Oil, into her Vent, which will make her Lay her Egg Presently, with Ease.

If you Perceive that She Continues still Ill,

Open her Bill with a Six Pence, and Make her Swallow a Drop of the same Oil, which will Ease the Gripes, and *Sharp Pains*, She Endures.

And, Put her into a Little Cage by her self, with some Hay in it, and Place her in the Sun, or Before a Fire, if the Sun does not Shine, till She is Well.

These Things will Restore Her to her Former Health, and then Put her to her Old Place, Again.

This *Distemper* Seldom Seizes them, but at Laying their *First*, or *Second Egg*.—And Before She Lays, and also During her whole Laying,

Give her Some Whole *Oatmeal Grots*, and also *Chickweed*, and *Groundsil*, which will cause a Slip-

Having Laid 2, or 3 Eggs, She'll begin to Sit, and Some Breeders Leave Her to her Eggs herself, But the Generallity of Breeders, do as Follows.

Every Day as She Lays an Egg, Take it Away with a Little Tea Spoon, and Lay it on a Little *Bran*, or *Cotton*, or *Fine Sand*, in a Little Box.

But, Don't Bury it, 'twill *Heat* it, and be in Danger of Addling it.—A Tea Spoon is the only *SAFE Way* to Remove an Egg with.—Whereas,

By Handling them, they are many Times Broke.

For, The Fear of Breaking an Egg, when Handled, makes a Person Take it Up Trembling,

And by that Means, an Egg is often Broke, before one is Aware of it, Either by Pressing it too Hard between the Fingers, Or else by Letting it Fall.

To Hinder any such Accident, which nevertheless Daily happens to the most Experienced Persons,

The Eggs are NEVER to be Meddled with, unless in Case of Absolute Necessity indeed.—And

Then, If you have not a Little Tea Spoon at Hand, You must Take the Egg up Unconcern'd, and without Dread, — Because, The Fear of Breaking it, Oftens proves a dangerous Precaution,

And Many times, even causes you to Break it.

If therefore you *Handle* the Egg, Take it Up pretty Boldly, but yet *Gently*, *Gingerly*, and *Cautiously* withal, by the Two Ends, — For,

That Way, it is less Apt to Break, than if Taken up by the Middle, which you must NEVER Do,

Lest it should get any Little Crack, by your Touching it, altho' even Imperceptible, which utterly Spoils your Egg: Because, If an Egg has *Any*, tho' Never so Little a *Crack* in it, that the least Air gets into it, it NEVER will have a Young One.

When therefore your Hen has Laid her First Egg, Take it Away with a Tea Spoon,

And Put an Ivory Egg in the Place of it.

You

You may have Little Ivory Eggs for this Use, at Most Toy Shops. Or you may Make Little *False Eggs* of Little Bits of *Chalk*, your Self.

You must *Never* Substitute Old Addled Eggs in the Room of the Eggs you Take Away :

Because, They often Break in the Nest, and Infect it, and the ill Scent makes the Old Ones Sick.

Take Away in the same Manner, Her 2d Egg, & Add a 2d Ivory Egg, & do the Same at her 3d Egg.

And, If The Next Day She Lays a *Fourth* Egg, Let it Lie, and Take Away the *Three* Ivory Eggs,

And, With a Tea Spoon (for by *No Means*, Ever Meddle with the Eggs, if you can Possibly Help it, for Fear of the Worst) Place in Her Former 3 Eggs, to Her 4th Egg.—And, If after having Laid 3 Eggs, the Next Day she does not Lay A 4th Egg.—Then,

Take Away the 3 False Ivory Eggs, and Return Her her Own 3 Eggs, into her Nest, Again.

Do *This* at Every Sitting, For, Should you leave the Hens their *Own Right Eggs*, and not take them Away, and Put False Ones in their Room,

They would Hatch at Several times, and the *First* Young Birds Hatch'd, being Stronger than *Those*, which would come 2 Days After, Would Take all the Food from the Hen, & also Stifle the *Last* Comers.

When the Hen has Set 7 Days, Look at the Eggs against the Sun, or a Candle, in your Tea Spoon,

Or, Lay the Eggs One after Another, in the Palm of your Hand, & Shading your other Hand over it, you'l Know the *Good* Eggs, from the *Bad* Ones, Thus,

Those Eggs which you perceive (Holding them thus Against the Light) to be *Clear*, and in a manner Transparent, Take them Away, and Break them,

They are *Addled*, & good for Nothing, & will only Tire the Hen to no Purpose, in Sitting on them.

But those Eggs which Look of a Deep *Blue* Colour, and *Thick*, are Very Good Eggs.

And

And, *Now* Appears the great Conveniency of Having *More* Pairs of Birds, than *One*.—Because,

If 2, or 3 Hens are but Set on the *Same* Day, if *Any* of the Eggs Prove *Addle*, Then Put all the Good Eggs into *One*, or 2 Nests, of the *Same* Age,

And Take *One* of the Hen's Nests Away, & She'l Go Again to Nest the Sooner.—For Example,

If you have Several Pairs of *Canary Birds*, whose Hens have Laid Near about the *Same* Days,

Then, Take Away the Addle Eggs from Every Hen, & out of 3 Hens that have Nests, Leave only *Two* Hens Sitting, Distributing the Good Eggs of the 3 Nests, between the 2 Hens, you leave Sitting,

And the 3d Hen deprived of her Nest, will much *Sooner* make a New Nest, and Lay Again.

This being thus done, Leave the *Two* Sitting Hens, to themselves, without Meddling with them, any More.—And, After a Hen has Sat, just 13 Days, and 12 Hours, the Eggs will of themselves Break, and the Young Ones will Come Out,

Either *All* Together (which is by Far the *Best* Way) if you Took Away her Eggs, as She Laid them, in the Manner Abovementioned,

Or, Successively, *One*, by *One*, *One* Day after Another, if her Eggs were not Taken Away.

Thus for Instance, If You Lay 4 or 5 Eggs under your Hen on a *Saturday*, at 7 in the Morning,

There will be Young Ones Hatched, Under the Old Ones Wings, Next *Thursday* Sennight, in the Evening.

So that, On *Fryday* Morning, as Soon as you Please,

You may expect to See a Parcel of Little, almost Naked *Things*, having only a Little *Fiee Down* on them, and no Bigger than Spiders,

Stretching Up their Little Long Necks, & Gaping their Little, but *Wide* enough *Mouths* (which is the very *First* Motion, that Nature Prompts them with) *Ready* to Take What ever is Put into them.

*How to Order Canary Birds, When they Hatch,
And Whilst they have Young Ones.*



FOR the First Day at least,
After Young Canary Birds
are Hatch'd, the Old Ones
Give them No Food at all,
But Nourishes them only with
Warmth, by Brooding, and Sit-
ting on them, After which, Both
Cock, & Hen will Feed them, Thus:

They First Fill their own Crops with the *Scalded Bread*, the Seeds of the Greens, the Custard, and Dry Bisket, All Hereafter Mentioned in Page 39.

And Mix it *All Together* in their Own Crops, & then, Disgorge it into the Young One's Little Mouths.

By which Means, they *Warm*, *Concoct*, and Half Digest the Meat, *First* in their own Crops, *Before* ever they Put it into the Young One's Mouths,

Which is most Natural for them, Because,
This Takes off the Coldness, and Crudity of the Meat, to Lie Easy on their Tender Stomachs.

And, After the Old Ones have thus Fed their Young, the Hen Always Sits on them some Time,

To Brood, and Cherish them by *Warmth Outwardly*, whilst their Food Nourishes them *Inwardly*, and to make their Food to Digest the Better.

And, For Want of this Natural Way of Ordering Young Birds it is, that People who Take Nests of Birds in the Fields, so Soon Kill them.

Because, The Old Birds are the Best, and most *Natural Nurses* for their Young Ones, in the World:

For, They Warm their Meat in their own Crops, *Before* they give it to the Young Ones more Naturally, and Kindly, than any Meat can be *Warmed*.

The Heat also of their Bodies, by Sitting Over them, *After* they have Fed them, is a more Natural *Warmth*, than all the Coverings in the World.

And

And for Want of this Natural Way of Treating *Young Birds*, it is, that So Many Boys, and Girls, so *Soon* Nurse *Whole* Nests of *Young Birds*, into their Graves.—Thus, They, Both Cock, & Hen, will Feed them, 'till they Get Out of the Nest,

Which they will do, about 3 Weeks after they are Hatch'd. —And Then, They will begin to Fly a Little, and Follow the Old Ones About,

Hovering, and Shaking their Wings for Food, which the Old Ones (notwithstanding they may be going to Nest again) will Still Give them,

'Till they can Crack Seeds, and Feed themselves on the Scalded Bread, Greens, Custard, Bisket, &c.

Nay, And after they can even Crack Seeds, and Fully Feed themselves, they will Still Follow the Old Ones about, Gaping, & Hovering, and Shaking their Wings to be Fed, And the Old Ones are also so Fond, as to Continue on still, to Feed them.

And, If a Cock, or Hen should happen to Die, During their thus having Young Ones, The Survivor, Cock, or Hen, will Bring them Up *Alone*.—But,

When the Young Ones can Fully Feed themselves, & Crack Seeds, The Best Way (if your Breeding Place is but *Small*) is to Draw the *Young Ones* off,

And to Put them all Together, in some Large Cage, or Partition by themselves,—Otherwise,

They will so Follow after, & Pester the Old Ones, Still to Feed them, that they will be a Disturbance to them, in their *Next* Laying, and Sitting.—But,

If you Breed in a Good *Large* Room, Then,

You need not be at the Trouble of Drawing the Young Ones off, Having Room Enough for them.

But, If you *Do* Draw the Young Ones off,

Altho' they *Now* begin to Crack Seeds, Yet, You must Besides, Supply them for a While, with the *Same* Food, such as Scalded Bread, &c. that the Old Ones Fed them with, Whilst they were in the Nest,

Left, If they should not take to Crack Seeds Presently, they should be at a Loss, for Food.

And, The Better to Teach them to Crack Seeds, NOW, their Stomachs being a Little Stronger, You may give them some Scalded *Rape Seed*.

Young *Canary Birds*, for Some Time After they are Flown Out of the Nest, will Frequently in the Day Time, Sit on a Peach, with their Heads Under their Wings, but Never Mind *That*,

For, It is No Sign at all, of their being *Not Well* :

Because, As Young Infants Sleep *Often* in the Day Time, which Grown Persons do not, And, which Sleeping Nourishes them, as much as their Food,

So, Young *Canary Birds*, will Sleep *Often* in the Day Time, Especially after Feeding, with their Heads under their Wings, altho' they are in Perfect Health, and which Frequent Sleeping, Nourishes *Them* also, almost as much as their Food.

IF any One does not Approve of the Above Way, of not Giving the Old Ones Hard *Egg*, to Feed their Young Ones with, — At least,

A Hard *Egg*, and Crum of Bread, Stuck Each upon 2 Spikes, as Above in Page 27. will save them a Deal of Trouble in *Grating*, or *Chopping* them Small :

And the Old Ones, will thus Eat Up themselves the *Egg* from off the Spikes, and then Disgorge their Own Crops, and Feed their Young Ones with Both *Egg*, and Bread, FULL AS WELL, as if they were *Grated*, or *Chopp'd* into Small Bits.

Since therefore, This Easy Way of Half an *Egg* upon TWO Spikes, is found by Experience, to Rear the Young Ones, *Full As Well*, as the Troublesome Way of *Grating* it, by those who Do Give their Young Ones Any *Hard Egg*, It is Certainly, the most Preferable, as having the *Pleasure, Without the Toil*.

*Of the Common Way, of Grating Egg, & Bread,
& Scalding Rape Seed, for Young Canary Birds.*

TIS a Common Way, to Grate *Egg*, and *Bread*, and Mix with it *Rape Seed*, First *Scalded*, & then *Bruised*, to Give to Old *Canary Birds*, to Feed their Young Ones with, Which is not Only *Improper* Food for them, but is a *Daily Trouble* to the Breeder, to Prepare it.

And therefore, is very often the only Difficulty, that Hinders Many, from Breeding *Canary Birds*,

Who, Was it not for this *Daily Trouble* of *Grating Egg*, and *Bread*, and *Scalding of Rape Seed*, would Willingly have this Little Diversion.

There is No One, that Loves to Breed these Little Birds, that would Grudge the Charge of an Egg, or Two, That's *Not the Question*.—But,

The *Fuss*, and *Fiddle Faddle*, there is Every Day, in Boiling the Egg, and then *Grating It*, & the *Bread*, and *Mixing* them with *Scalded*, & *Bruised* *Rape Seed*, Is a *Trouble* that No One would be Fond of, if the Young Ones would but Thrive *As Well*, without it.

Which They most Certainly *Will*, As Any One will soon find, that does but Leave off giving the Old Ones *Grated Egg*, and *Bread*, and *Scalded Rape Seed*, to Feed their Young Ones with.

If therefore, *This Daily Trouble* was but Taken Away, Many would be Glad to Breed *Canary Birds*, that do not, being Affraid of the *Trouble* of it:

And also, Many would Continue on Breeding, who Leave it off, purely because of this *Trouble*.

For, A Little Pretty Diversion, Daily to Require a *Troublesome Attendance*, does not *Recompense*.

'Tis making *A Toil of a Pleasure* — If Therefore,

A more *Wholsome* Food can be Given them, without such *Trouble*, Every Breeder would doubtless be Glad of it, as is the *Easy Food* Hereafter, in Page 39, which is with Very *Little Trouble*.

Now, and then (but not *Constantly* Every Day) You may Give the Old Ones a Little Hard Egg, which to do, without the Trouble of Grating &c.

You may Give them a Whole Half of a Hard Egg in One Lump, Stuck on *Two* Little Spikes, to keep it Firm on, as Ordered Above in Page 27.

Thus, You have no Farther Trouble, Because, A Half Egg given in this Manner, will keep *Sweet*, 'till They have Eat it all Up, —Whereas,

Grated Egg, and Bread, Mix'd with Scalded Rape Seed, Given them in a Morning, will in Hot Weather, be Stale, and *Sour*, by Noon, —For,

Rape Seed Scalded, Sours Presently, which will Put your Birds into a Scow'ring, & Kill them, but Scalded Bread only, will not be Sour, in *A Whole Day*.

So that, If in the Summer Time, Grated Egg, and Bread, with Scalded Rape Seed, is not given them *Fresh, Twice a Day*, you will Loose your Young Ones.

But, By Giving them, Now, and Then only, thus a Half Egg, you Avoid all that *Fuss*, & Trouble.

Egg, is too Hot to be *Constantly* Given to Young *Canary Birds*, and Over-Heats them too much.

And Scalded Rape Seed is too *Sharp*, and *Pungent* for their Tender Little Stomachs, and is the Cause, that so many Young *Canary Birds* Die, as Do.

The Breeders are Surprised at it, and Cannot Imagin the Reason: Whereas, It is Nothing Else,

But The Young One's Little Tender Stomachs are *Over Heated* with having *Too Much Egg*,

And, Are Stimulated, and Fretted by the *Sharpness*, and *Pungency* of the Rape Seed, which Causes so Many Young *Birds* to Drop off, as oftentimes Disheartens the Breeder, from Breeding any Longer.

Therefore, A much Easier Way, and with Nothing of that *Daily Trouble*, of Grateing Every Day an Egg, and Bread, and Scalding of Rape Seed, and then Bruising it &c. is to Do, as Follows.

*An Easier Prepared, and Better Food, for Young
Canary Birds, than Grated Egg, & Rape Seed.*



Pour a Little Boiling Water
upon some Crum of Bread,
And, When it has Soaked
a While, Squeeze out the Bread
pretty Hard, that it may not be too
Soft, to Loosen the Young Birds,
And Strew a Little *Maw Seed*
amongst it, if you have any, *By you.*

But, If you happen to have No *Maw Seed*, *By you*,
Then, Give the Old Ones the Scalded Bread Only,
upon a Little Saucer, And you will Presently See,
How *Eagerly* they'l Feed their Young Ones with it,
And Good WHEATEN BREAD, *Thus Scalded*,
is a most Wholesome, & Nourishing Food for them.

And that more especially, When the Old Ones
have Mix'd in their *Own Warm Crops*, Some
Other Nourishing Food along with it, — For,

You will Plainly See the Food in the Young One's
Crops, to be *Visibly* PARTY COLOURED, *Viz.*

WHITEISH, with the *Scalded Bread*,

GREENISH, with the *Chickweed*, & *Groundsl.*

And BLACKISH, with the *Maw Seed*, &c.

All Mixed *First* Together, in the Old One's Crops.

And, Continue also *This* Food for the Young
Ones, 'till they can Crack Seeds, Themselves.

Now, and Then, But not *Con-*
stantly, You may give them a
Little Hard Egg, with also a
Peece of the Crum of Bread,

Without any Trouble of Grate-
ing of Either, But Each of them
Stuck upon TWO Spikes, as
Represented in *This* Print, and

Directed How to be Ordered, Above in Page 27.

And



And Also, You would do very Well, to Give them Often a Penny Custard,



Or a Little Half Penny *Naples Bisket*, Stuck on *Two* Spikes, as Represented in this Print, and Directed Above in Page 27.

All this will never Prejudice, or Heat them, as Egg, & Rape Seed, Constantly Given them, Does.

No one can Say there is any Trouble in Getting a Half Penny Bisket, or a Little Penny Custard, Ready to their Hands, at Any Pastry Cooks.

And, When The Young Ones are Hatch'd, Befure don't let the Old Ones Want good Ripe *Seedy Chickweed*, and *Groundfil*, & Put in a small Saucer, Nothing else but a Little *Scalded Bread*,

And if You will, you may Mix a Little *Maw Seed* with it, without any Farther Trouble of Any *Grateing* of Egg, and Bread, and Scalding Rape Seed, there being *No Manner of Need of it, At all.*—And

The Young One's Crops will be Fill'd with this *Diversity of Food*, Mixed together by the Old Ones.

For, It is not with the *Scalded Bread Alone*, that they will Feed their Young Ones,—But

It is with this just now Mentioned *Mixture* of Warm, & Digested Food, First, in their Own Crops, Before ever they Give it to their Young Ones,

Tho', even *Scalded Bread Alone* by itself, is so Fit, and Proper a Food for them, that Whole Nests of Young Ones, have been Rear'd, With Nothing but *Scalded Bread Alone*, & *Chickweed*, & *Groundfil*,

For, Without such *Seedy Greens*, The Old Birds will *Never Kindly* Rear their Young Ones,

The Custard, & Bisket, have Eggs Enough in their Composition, to Nourish them, as to the *Egg Part*:

And *More* of the *Egg*, especially, whilst the Little Ones are *Very Young* indeed, may be *Let Alone*.

Which

Which Sort of Chickweed, and Groundsil, is Best for Canary Birds. And, In Want of These, What Other Greens to Give them.



IN Warmish Weather, Give Your Birds some Ripe, SEEDY *Chickweed*, and *Groundsil*, Or a Few Heads of *Dandelion*, when they are a Little Openish, Seedy, and Near Blowing.—For, 'Tis the Seeds of these Greens, that the Birds Wholly Delight in:—So that,

The Riper, and SEEDYER these Greens are, the Better they are, for them.——Give them also, some Young, Fine *Radish Leaves*.—Or,

A Leaf, or 2, Or a Little of the Heart of a Goss, Cabbage, or *Silesia Lettice*, Or, a Little *Selery*.

And, Towards *August*, When *Chickweed*, and *Groundsil* begin to be Scarce upon the Ground,

Then, Give them some of the Fine of the Inside of a Head of *Endive*, which is a Salad Herb, to be Had at most Herb Shops, and which they Mightily Love, & some Stalks of Ripe *Plantan* :

Or, a Little Wild Rape, or Turnep Seeds,

All Which, You'l see Grow on almost Every Bank, and Ditch Side, if you Walk but Out in the Fields.

Ripe *Plantan*, is One Seedy Stalk, of about 4, or 5 Inches, Long, And Wild Turnep, & Rape,

Each Bears it's Seed, in a Small Slender Pod, the Thickness of a Wheat Straw, about an Inch Long.

Gather your *Chickweed*, Not of That Sort, that is very Thick of Leaves, which is too Rank, Watery, and Moist, for them, and has Very Few Seeds.

For, 'tis the Seeds of the *Chickweed*, & *Groundsil*, which they Pick out of the Greens, and Love.

Chuse therefore *Chickweed*, & *Groundsil*, for *Canary Birds*, that have the Fewest, and Smallest Leaves:

And *Then*, They have Always the *Most* Seeds,
As Such *Chickweed*, and *Groundsil* Always have,
that Grow on the *DRYEST*, and most *Barren*,
Sandy, & *Gravelly* Ground, that you can Find, And,
Such *Chickweed*, and *Groundsil*, are always the
Seedyest, *Sweetest*, and *Best* for them. — Whereas,

What Grows in *Cold*, *Watery* Places, have always
the most *Watery*, & *Flashy* Leaves, & *Fewest* Seeds.

And, What Seeds They even have, are *Cold*,
Moist, *Flashy*, and *Watery*, and will give your
Birds a *Scow'ring*, which will very often Kill them.

Don't give them any *Chickweed*, *Too Soon* in the
Spring, whilst it is *Cold*, being Naturally a *Cold*
Watery Weed, and therefore is not Good for *Canary*
Birds, but only in *Warm* Weather, — And,

Even *Then*, If your *Chickweed* is not *Seedy*, give
them *None*, for they don't Care for the Leaves of it.

But, As for Ripe *SEEDY* *Groundsil*, or *Dandelion*,
You may give it to your Birds, as *Soon* as you can
Get them, they being Weeds of a *Warmer* Nature.

Of *Shepherd's Purse*.



THERE is Weed that Grows
in almost ALL *Barren* Court
Yards, even in *Cities*, and *Towns*:

For, The more *Barren* the Ground
is, even amongst *Stones*, the *More*
Plentyfully *This Weed* Grows.

You may Know it, by it's Bearing a very Little,
and Very *Flat* Seedy Bag, as Small as a *Barly* Corn,
and Exactly of the Shape of a Little *HEART*.

This Shepherd's Purse Seed, they Love mightily,
and it is very Good for them, And you may Get
it commonly *Any Where*, in most *Barren* Places, *All*
Summer Long, Where *Any Weeds* do but Grow,

For, There is Always *Some* of it, amongst Weeds.

The

*The Only Good Way of Scalding Rape Seed,
for Young Canary Birds.*

AS this Book is *Wholly* Designed, to make the *Breeding of Canary Birds*, to be with much Less Trouble, & Greater Pleasure, than the Common Way of Breeding, is.——So,

If Persons are but Willing to be at the Trouble *Every Day* of Either Grating, or Chopping very Small, Hard Egg, and Bread, and Mixing with it Scalded Rape Seed, &c. It is not Here at all Denied, but that it is an Admirable Food, for them,

Excepting Only, that *Egg Every Day*, is not so Proper for the *Very Young Nestlings*, as has been Said.

And, As for *Scalding of Rape Seed*, to Mix along with their Bread, and Egg, the *Only Beneficial* Way to do it for the Young Ones, Is Thus.

Soak some *Rape Seed* in Boiling Hot Water, some *Few Hours*, and then, Take the Seed Clean Out, and Wash it well, in some *Cold Water*.

Which is the *ONLY Way* to Take off the *Sharpness*, and *Pungency* of it, which the Scalding has Thrown Out into it's Surface, and Outward Hull.

For, Without this Washing the Scalded Seed Afterwards in *Cold Water*, it is not near so *Fit* for their Young Tender Stomachs, tho' the Old Ones can Bear the Scalded Rape Seed *Unwash'd*, very well.

And, After The Young Birds are *Some Days* Old, you may Safely Put of it on a Saucer,

Either by itself, or Mixed with Grated Egg, & Bread, for the Old Birds to Feed them with,

If you are but only Willing, to be at the *Daily* Trouble of Grating the *Egg*, and *Bread*, &c.

The Main Design of this Book, being to *Encourage* a Little, the Breeding of these Birds,

By Putting Persons into a *Far Easier Way* of it, than Commonly is Used, by Saving *That Daily* Trouble of Grating Egg, and Bread, &c.

*How to Make Canary Birds to Eat Less of
Canary Seed, & More of Rape, which is
Wholesomest for them, tho' they Love it Least.*

TO do this, You must Put in your
Breeding Place, ALL *Canary Seed* in One
Dish, or Trough by it self, and at a
Distance off, Give them ALL *Rape Seed*, by it self.

By this Means, Seeing No *Canary Seed* Amongst
the *Rape*, they'l Eat at Times, heartyly of the *Rape
Seed*, which they *Will Not Do*, as Long as they See a
Grain of *Canary Seed* Before them, Mixed with *Rape*.

For, They *All* (except here, & there, a particular
Bird) Love the *Canary Seed* Best, because 'tis Sweetest.

And Therefore, As *Rape* is a Sharpish kind of
Seed, & *Canary Seed* is Sweet, and more Pleasant,

They Love it so *Well*, that as Long as a *Canary
Bird*, sees *Canary Seed* Mixed Along with the *Rape*,

There is scarce One Bird in 20, but will, Gene-
rally Speaking, Pick out *All* the *Canary Seed* First,

And Eat Little, or No *Rape Seed* at all, as long
as they See but a Grain of *Canary Seed*, Before them.

But, By this Way of Separating the *Rape Seed*,
from the *Canary*, You will Find, that your Birds
will Eat a Deal *More* *Rape Seed* (which is *Whol-
somest* for them) than they would otherwise do, if
they saw *Canary Seed*, Mixed Along with the *Rape*.

For, Some Birds will not Touch a *Rape Seed*, as
Long as they See ONE *Canary Seed* Amongst it.

But, Those that Eat *Most* *Rape Seed*, are al-
ways *Stout, Healthy, Strong*, and Long Lived *Birds*.

And, If you do but *Wash* some *Scalded Rape
Seed*, in Cold Water, to take off the Sharpness and
Pungency of it, as Directed Above in Page 43.

And so Give it to the Young Birds, When they
begin to Crack Seed themselves, it will Invite them
to Eat much *More of Rape Seed*, than they would
Otherwise do, if the *Rape Seed* was not so *Washed*

How to Cure a SICK Canary Bird.



WHEN a Canary Bird is Sick, & out of Order, It Generally Proceeds from

This: On the Top of their Rump, is a Little Pimple, (which some Call the *Pip on the Rump*) At which they often Peck, to Draw out an *Oily Moisture*, which Nature There

Supplies them with, to keep them in Health, Thus.

This *Moisture* they Peck out, and take in their Bills, and Dress, and Oil their Wings, with it.

Now, As long as this Pimple Abounds, and Supplies them with this *Moisture*, they Constantly Dress their Feathers with it, & Keeps them in Health.

But, If this Pimple is DRY, and has *None* of this *Moisture* in it, as at Certain Times, it has not, Then, The Bird Pines, and Grows Sick, for Want of it, and No Body Knows What it Ails.

Infomuch, That the Bird will at Times, Peck so much at *That Pimple*, to get the *Oily Moisture* Out of it, as to Make it Sore, and Raw. — Now,

To Remedy this General Cause of *Most Distempers* in Canary Birds, You must Take the Bird Gently in your Hand, And, With the End of a Large Nail, Put 3, or 4 Drops of the Best Eating Oil upon this Pimple, and Supple it well with it, and Put him into his Cage Again.

And Give him a Little *Maw Seed*, which will Cherish, and Comfort him, and Put the Bigness of a Nutmeg of Loaf Sugar, into his Water,

Which will Render it more Agreeable, than Bare Fair Water, So that he will Drink more Freely of it, And Often Drinking, is at *This Time*, Good for him.

So that, For Want of thus Supplying this Pimple with this *Oily Moisture*, and thereby Assisting Nature in *This Point*, a Great Many Birds Die, and No Body ever thinks of What they have Ailed

And, If your Bird does *Not Recover*, Spirt upon him *Suddenly*, a little Fair Water, out of your Mouth.

And, Set him in a Cage in the Sun, or Before a Fire, to *Dry*, and to *Peck*, and *Refresh* himself.

Thus Spirting a Little Water so *Suddenly* on the Bird, is a Remedy that is Good for *Most* Distempers in Birds, and especially in *Fits*, which they are often Subject to, And Acts on the Bird, as the Cold Bath does on a Human Body, in Several Distempers:

Which, By it's *Sudden* Surprise of Coldness, gives a Sudden Shock and Turn to the Humors in the Body, and thereby, the Person Receives Benefit.

So in like Manner, The Very *Sudden* Spirting of the Water on the Bird, gives such a Sudden Shock, & Turn to it's Distemper, as to Cure the Bird.

A Blade, or 2 of Saffron is Commonly Prescribed when a Bird is Sick, to be Put into his Water,

But, It is Doing *Meer Nothing*, Because, Only ONE Blade, or 2, & no *More*, is not Enough to give the Water *Sufficient Virtue*, to do the Bird *Any Good*.

And, If you Put *More* in, it will Turn the Water so *Yellow*, that he will be Affraid to Drink of it,

And also, It will give the Water such a Disagreeable Taste, that he will Drink Scarce *Any* of it:

But, Suppose he should Drink *Enough* of it, to do him any Good, Such a Quantity of Saffron, that is Requisite to make the Water to have a Sufficient Effect upon the Bird, will Over-Heat the Bird, and so do him more Harm, than Good.

For a *Canary Bird*, being Naturally a Very Hot Creature, should have Cooling, and Refreshing things Given him *Inwardly*, and kept Warm *Outwardly*.

Therefore, A Little Lump of Loaf Sugar in his Water, is much Better for him, than an Insignificant Blade, or 2 only, and No *More*, of Saffron,

For, The Sugar will Render the Water so Agreeable, as to make him Drink Freely, and Often of

If a Bird has a Swelling of it's Belly, which then Looks Bulky, and Red, (which is a *Common Distemper to Canary Birds*, from having got Cold.)

Or, If a *Canary Bird* is *Husky*, which you will Know by it's Sitting Melancholy, Gaping, and Snapping it's Bill, and Fetching it's Breath very Short.—Then, If the Bird is Amongst Others,

Take him Away, and Put him in a Cage by himself, and Give him some *Bread Boiled in Milk*, & some *Maw Seed* Mixt with it, & Keep him Warm.

This will Scour him a Little at Firſt, and Bring Away thoſe Humors which Cauſe his Illneſs,

But, After that, He will Recover, and Dung Hard, and Round, as a Healthy Bird ſhould do.—Alſo,

Put the Bigneſs of a *Pea*, of *Rock Alum*, into his Water to Diſſolve, Renewing Freſh Water, with a Freſh Bit of Alum in it, Every Day.

When you Perceive a Bird to be Loofe, and to have a Violent Scow'ring, Pull *Gently*, One, by One, *Some* of, Or If the Bird is very *Bad* indeed,

ALL the Feathers out of his Tail, & with a Pair of Sciffars, Clip the Feathers Cloſe about his Vent.

And Quench the End of a Red Hot Poker in his Water, and give him *Maw Seed*, & the *Yolk of an Egg*, Boiled Very Hard, Mixed together.

And Likewiſe, Put a Little Bit of Iron, ſuch as a Six Penny Nail into his Water, and Change the Water Twice a Week, ſtill Leaving the Nail in it.

Theſe Little Means, have Cured Numbers of Sick Birds. And, Thus, By a Little Care, and Management, A *Canary Bird* will Live Many Years.

You muſt Always keep a Sick Bird in a Warm Place, Or in a Warm Sun, or by a Fire: For, *Warmth* is ſometimes Half a Cure, eſpecially for a Diſtemper Coming from Cold, as a Swelled Belly in a Bird is.

And Give him a Little Half Penny *Nayles Bisket*.

APPENDIX.

APPENDIX.

IF You Happen to have Any Quantity of *Chickweed*, *Groundfil*, or *Shepherd's Purse*, at a Time, Put them into a Deep Earthen Pan, in a Cool Place, and they will Keep Good, a Week.

And, If you Put a Handfull of the Long Stalks of *Groundfil* into a Deep Gallypot with Water,

And Set the Gallypot, in your Breeding Place, for the Birds to Pick at, it will *Ripen*, & *Blow*.

You should have a *Little Hand Net*, with a Handle to it, to Take a Bird with, out of your Breeding Place. To be Had at Any Net Shop.

Have also a *Little Hand Rake*, which by Drawing it Over the Gravel, will at Any Time, Clean it.

Several Hens may be Kept in One Cage, Out of Breeding Time, but Every Cock must have a Single Cage, because they'l Fight, but Hens will not.

Your Gravel must be Very *Dry*, Else it will give your Birds the *Cramp* in their Feet.

You may Know Young *Cock Canary Birds*, by their begining to Record, Warble, and *Quiver* in their Little Throats, at about Six Weeks, or Two Months Old, which *Hens* Do not, at All.—And

Have a Good Lump of *Loaf Sugar*, or *Chalk* (too *Big* for the Birds to Pull about) in your *Breeding Place*.

They'll often Peck at it, and it will Absorbe, and Destroy many *Sharp Humors*, which Cause Distempers in them: And therefore, *Chalk* is as Wholsome for *Them*, as it is for the *Heart Burn*, and some Other Illnesses in a Human Body.—So

That, Nothing you can Give them, will Concur *More*, to Keep them in *Constant Health*, than *Chalk*.

In Any Illness in a Bird, Give him *Maw Seed*, which is a *Cordial*, and being a fine Sweet Seed, He'll Eat of it, when he will Eat Nothing else.

And Sometimes, Give your Birds a Little Very *Fine Hempseed*, to Warm, and Cherish them.

